

Former Oregon state Sen. Avel Gordly's email to Mayor Ted Wheeler in support of Officer Daryl Turner's statement:

Date: Mon, Jul 6, 2020 at 3:06 PM

Subject: My Support for the Police Union President Open Letter

To: Wheeler, Ted <Ted.Wheeler@portlandoregon.gov>

Mayor Wheeler, Ted...I am writing to let you know that I support Daryl Turner's open letter issued today. I have left a message for him letting him know my concern is joined with his. I have left a message of support for Chief Lovell. I have also left a message for Governor Kate Brown sharing my support for the Police Union President's letter. And, I have left a message for Commissioner Hardesty expressing support for the Police Union statement.

I am a born and raised Portland Native of 73 years and my heart hurts for our Beloved Community and City and all of the people living in it right now. You have used your voice correctly in my view to condemn the violence of the protesters who have hijacked a movement and you have rightly questioned whether the Police response is/has been appropriate. Obviously, there should be an accounting about police tactics as you have asked for. It is deeply troubling to me that we have elected officials whose voices are now heard collectively to support the anti police narrative and agenda. The elected official voice(s) gives permission to the violent element to continue to act irresponsibly. This is not the Portland I want to live in. Stating the obvious unfortunate circumstance, You currently do not have a majority of council willing to absolutely condemn the behavior of the violent element in the protest crowd. The fixation is with the police behavior. That is our achilles heel as a City at this moment of truth speaking. We must deal with the truths spoken in the Police Union Open Letter especially the observation about the exercise of white privilege by the protesters highlighted by Daryl Turner. We need your voice Mayor, as a continuing correcting influence. Please keep talking about the bigger picture as it is described in the Police Union Open Letter. Please know that you have my support and that of many, many concerned Portlanders, May God Bless you in the days ahead with courage and discernment. Avel